

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



AS I SEE IT

Halifax County: Navigating the Winds of Change

August 3, 2009

Two years ago, the state took a more direct role in school districts that had historically low student achievement. In 2009, our relationship with Halifax County Schools moved to a new level, today, the State Board of Education, the Department of Public Instruction and Halifax County Schools have forged a strong partnership. Our goal is to work together - each bringing particular strengths to the table - to overcome low achievement in Halifax County.

It is my honor to be involved directly with the future growth of the Halifax County Schools. My 35 years in education have proven to me that the majority of educators care about children and want them to be successful. I also am confident that even with all the challenges we face in schools across the America, teachers go to work expecting to make a difference every day. Parents also share a desire for their children to succeed. And, students, most of all, have important dreams and goals. This is as true in Halifax County as it is anywhere else.

The Halifax slogan, "Navigating the Winds of Change," speaks directly to our work. Some would debate whether change is good or not; however, all must agree that change is inevitable. Progressive, proactive thinking will help us navigate that change in a positive direction so that all students will have those skills necessary to realize their dreams.

We will be successful together. Our primary work will focus on work already underway by competent, caring people in every classroom. A focused curriculum; creative teaching strategies that keep students engaged in rigorous, meaningful work; and guaranteeing that there is an effective teacher in every classroom are the tenets by which we are navigating this change.

Our guarantee to the students, teachers and community of Halifax County is that together we will produce results. Halifax County teachers are as dedicated as their peers anywhere. Halifax County children are as intelligent and eager to learn as any students anywhere. Their future is promising. They deserve the very best, and it is our commitment to deliver the very best.

Bill Harrison, Chairman
State Board of Education